

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Northwest Arctic Borough****Project Title:**

Northwest Arctic Borough - Search and Rescue Fuel and Equipment

State Funding Requested: \$ 75,000**House District: 40 - T**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Grant money to be used for fuel and equipment to conduct search and rescue efforts in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The local search and rescue teams are the first responders for the entire borough.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$75,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Northwest Arctic Borough (NWAB) serves as the coordinator and command center for search and rescue efforts in the Northwest Arctic Borough, which includes coordinating search and rescue efforts in all 11 villages. On average, the NWAB conducts ten searches a year. Some searches are simply to recover a body but there have been many searches that have found the victim alive like the young girl rescued in Selawik last spring. The region is known for its harsh climate and unpredictable weather making a reliable search and rescue team invaluable. In the last several years, the cost of fuel has greatly impacted the search and rescue budget. In the region, a gallon of gas ranges from \$4 in the larger hub communities to \$7 in the villages. Additionally, the search and rescue equipment needs continued maintenance and upgrading. Additionally, if the villages have adequate equipment they can perform searches locally without assistance from Kotzebue. The grant monies would be used to help cover the increased fuel costs and to maintain and upgrade the existing search and rescue equipment.

Project Timeline:

During the course of the fiscal year as searches are carried out on an as needed basis.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Northwest Arctic Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No